

App. No. 09/691325
Office Action Dated April 22, 2004
Amd. Dated August 23, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 23 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 7, 14, 22 and 34 are amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A grout for watertight screens, which consists of a mixture comprising water, a natural or modified clay, a blast furnace slag having a maximum grain size of between about 50 μm and about 100 μm and an activating agent, wherein said grout has a cement/water ratio of between 0.1 and 0.25.
2. (Original) The grout according to claim 1, in which the slag has a maximum grain size equal to about 80 μm .
3. (Previously Presented) The grout according to claim 1, in which the slag has a CaO/SiO₂ weight ratio of between 1.10 and 1.35.
4. (Previously Presented) The grout according to claim 1, in which the slag has a chemical modulus of greater than about 500.
5. (Previously Presented) The grout according to claim 1, in which the modified clay is bentonite.
6. (Previously Presented) The grout according to claim 1, in which the activating agent is a compound selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium or potassium (bi)carbonate, gypsum, quicklime, slaked lime and mixtures of these compounds.

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7. (Currently Amended) The grout according to claim 1, in which the ~~mixture~~ comprises ~~from~~ amount of activating agent is about 1% to about 10% by weight of activating agent with respect to the weight of the blast furnace slag.

8-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The grout of claim 1, in which the activating agent is Portland cement.

13. (Previously Presented) The grout of claim 1, in which the slag has a Blaine specific surface area of about 2,500 to about 4,500 cm²/g.

14. (Currently Amended) An excavation fluid, which comprises a grout consisting of a ~~mixture comprising~~ water, a natural or modified clay, a blast furnace slag having a maximum grain size of between about 50 µm and about 100 µm, and an activating agent, wherein said grout has a cement/water weight ratio between 0.1 and 0.25.

15. (Previously Presented) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the slag has a maximum grain size equal to about 80 µm.

16. (Previously Presented) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the slag has a CaO/SiO₂ weight ratio of between about 1.10 and about 1.35.

17. (Previously Presented) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the slag has a chemical modulus of greater than about 500.

18. (Previously Presented) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the slag has a Blaine specific surface area of about 2,500 to about 4,500 cm²/g.

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19. (Previously Presented) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the modified clay is bentonite.
20. (Previously Presented) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the activating agent is a compound selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium or potassium (bi)carbonate, gypsum, quicklime, slaked lime and mixtures of these compounds.
21. (Previously Presented) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the activating agent is Portland cement.
22. (Currently Amended) The excavation fluid of claim 14, in which the mixture comprises from amount of activating agent is about 1 % to about 10 % by weight of activating agent with respect to the weight of the blast furnace slag.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Withdrawn) A method of making a watertight screen which comprises carrying out perforation with a grout consisting of a mixture comprising water, a natural or modified clay, a blast furnace slag having a maximum grain size of between about 50 μm and about 100 μm , and an activating agent.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the slag has a maximum grain size equal to about 80 μm .
26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the slag has a CaO/SiO_2 weight ratio of between about 1.10 and about 1.35.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the slag has a chemical modulus of greater than about 500.

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28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the slag has a Blaine specific surface area of about 2,500 to about 4,500 cm²/g.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the modified clay is bentonite.
30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the activating agent is a compound selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium or potassium (bi)carbonate, gypsum, quicklime, slaked lime and mixtures of these compounds.
31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the activating agent is Portland cement.
32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the mixture comprises from about 1% to about 10 % by weight of activating agent with respect to the weight of the blast furnace slag.
33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, in which the grout has a cement/water weight ratio of between about 0.1 and about 0.25.
34. (Currently Amended) In a method for the preparation of a grout for making a watertight screen, said grout comprising a cement, the improvement comprising using a blast furnace slag having a maximum grain size of between about 50 µm and about 100 µm as the cement, wherein said grout has a cement/water weight ratio between 0.1 and 0.25.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, in which the slag has a maximum grain size equal to about 80 µm.

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36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, in which the slag has a CaO/SiO₂ weight ratio of between about 1.10 and about 1.35.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, in which the slag has a chemical modulus of greater than about 500.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, in which the slag has a Blaine specific surface area of about 2,500 to about 4,500 cm²/g.